

P.L. 2009, CHAPTER 228, *approved January 16, 2010*
Assembly, No. 880 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Reading Disabilities Task
2 Force.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. Approximately 85% of all children who receive special
9 education services have basic deficits in language and reading; and

10 b. Many students with reading disabilities are never properly
11 diagnosed and do not receive the necessary specialized educational
12 programs; and

13 c. It is in the public interest for the State to establish a New
14 Jersey Reading Disabilities Task Force to study instructional
15 practices and strategies that benefit students with reading
16 disabilities and examine the ways in which current State policies
17 affect this population.

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19 2. a. There is hereby established the New Jersey Reading
20 Disabilities Task Force. The purpose of the task force shall be to
21 study and evaluate practices for diagnosing, treating, and educating
22 children with reading disabilities and examine how current statutes
23 and regulations affect these students in order to develop
24 recommendations to be presented to the Governor and Legislature.

25 b. The task force shall consist of 13 members as follows:

26 (1) the Commissioners of Education and Human Services, or
27 their designees, who shall serve ex officio;

28 (2) 11 members who shall be appointed no later than the 30th
29 day after the effective date of this act, as follows:

30 (a) five persons appointed by the Governor, who shall include:
31 one person upon the recommendation of the New Jersey branch of
32 the Learning Disabilities Association of America; one person upon
33 the recommendation of the New Jersey branch of the International
34 Dyslexia Association; ¹one person upon the recommendation of the
35 New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association; one person
36 upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Education
37 Association;¹ and ¹**[three members]** one member¹ of the public
38 with demonstrated expertise in issues relating to the work of the
39 task force;

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted May 4, 2009.

1 (b) two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of
2 the Senate, no more than one of whom shall be of the same political
3 party;

4 (c) two members of the General Assembly, appointed by the
5 Speaker of the General Assembly, no more than one of whom shall
6 be of the same political party, and;

7 (d) two members of the public, one selected by the President of
8 the Senate and one selected by the Speaker of the General
9 Assembly, with demonstrated expertise in issues relating to the
10 work of the task force.

11 Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in
12 the same manner provided by the original appointments.

13 c. The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's
14 designee, shall serve as the chairperson of the task force. The task
15 force shall organize as soon as practicable following the
16 appointment of its members and shall select a vice-chairperson from
17 among its members. The chairperson shall appoint a secretary who
18 need not be a member of the task force.

19 d. The public members shall serve without compensation, but
20 shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the
21 performance of their duties and within the limits of funds available
22 to the task force.

23 e. The task force shall be entitled to call to its assistance and
24 avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or
25 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it
26 may require and as may be available to it for its purposes.

27 f. The task force may meet and hold hearings at the places it
28 designates during the sessions or recesses of the Legislature.

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30 3. The task force shall report its findings and recommendations
31 to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.
32 1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), along with any legislative bills that it
33 desires to recommend for adoption by the Legislature, no later than
34 12 months after the initial meeting of the task force.

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36 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon
37 the issuance of the task force report.

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Establishes New Jersey Reading Disabilities Task Force.